

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00364 231509Z  
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W  
-----029491 240539Z /10

R 231415Z JUN 78  
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0364

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO  
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: THE EASTERN COUNTERPROPOSAL

1. THE US PRELIMINARY EVALUATION PAPER REGARDING  
THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS WILL OCCUPY A CENTRAL ROLE  
IN ALLIED DISCUSSION OF THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS.  
WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THE ALLIES HAVE A FULL  
DISCUSSION OF THE NEW PROPOSALS IN SPC, BASED ON THE  
US EVALUATION PAPER AS WELL AS ANY EVALUATIONS THAT  
ALLIES MAY WISH TO SUBMIT. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO FLAG  
THE NEED FOR CAUTION REGARDING ANY PROPOSALS BY OTHER  
ALLIES (PARA 3, USNATO 6183 DTG 191017Z JUNE 78) FOR  
AN AGREED ANALYSIS OF THE EASTERN JUNE 8 PROPOSAL TO  
BE DRAFTED BY THE MBFR WORKING GROUP.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00364 231509Z

2. A FULL DISCUSSION, BASED ON EVALUATION FROM CAPITALS,  
WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE TO AN AGREED EVALUATION OF THE  
EASTERN PROPOSALS BY THE WG. FIRST, THERE ARE MANY  
POINTS IN THE PROPOSALS WHICH REQUIRE CLARIFICATION  
BEFORE A FULL ANALYSIS CAN BE CONDUCTED. SECONDLY, A  
LARGE PART OF THAT ANALYSIS WILL PER FORCE BE POLITICAL  
AND BE MORE IN THE DOMAIN OF THE SPC THAN OF THE WG.

THIRD, AS FAR AS THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSALS ARE CONCERNED, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THOSE ASPECTS IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE JCS. BEFORE CONSIDERING WHETHER THE WG SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE TASKED TO DRAFT ITS OWN EVALUATION (WHICH WOULD BE PARTLY BASED ON JCS STUDY) IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE FULL JCS/USG ANALYSIS TO BE COMPLETED FIRST. FOURTH, AND INDEPENDENTLY OF THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THE US MILITARY ANALYSIS COMPLETED FIRST, TO TASK THE WG TO DO AN EVALUATION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD REDUCE THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR ITS MAJOR STUDY OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES AND THUS WOULD RISK DELAYING NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON THIS SUBJECT. FIFTH, AN AGREED EVALUATION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL COULD INCREASE THE RISK THAT THE FRENCH WOULD TAKE POSITIONS AT NATO WHICH WOULD BE UNHELPFUL TO THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. AN AGREED EVALUATION WOULD UNAVOIDABLY STUDY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE FRENCH, SUCH AS THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO FIX THE EXACT LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING AT 700,000/900,000, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF A REDUCTION FROM AN OVERALL ALLIED TOTAL WHICH INCLUDES THE FRENCH, AND THE MEANS PROPOSED BY THE EAST BY WHICH WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS COULD COMPENSATE FOR UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING FRENCH FORCES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00364 231509Z

3. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THAT A WG EVALUATION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY REQUIRED. IF SOME OF THE ALLIES EXPRESS THIS DESIRE, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT PRIORITY SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN TO THE WG ANALYSIS OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES AND THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A WG ANALYSIS OF PARTICULAR MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSALS CAN BE DECIDED LATER, WHEN THE US ANALYSIS (AND POSSIBLY THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES) WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE AS A BASIS AND WHEN THE AHG WILL HAVE OBTAINED CLARIFICATION FROM THE EAST ON SOME MOOT POINTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE DOD  
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